

Message Text

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13

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PRS-01 H-02 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 MC-02 L-03 AID-20 /084 R

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S/ PRS: JKING (INFO)

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NEA/ ARN: DKORN (INFO)

----- 127093

R 212144 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN' S PRESS BRIEFING MAY 21,
1973:

QUOTE: Q. COULD THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDE US WITH A BREAK-
DOWN OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN IRAN?

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A. WELL, LET ME JUST SAY ONE THING AND THEN I WILL REFER YOU TO THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT. THE U. S. ROLE IN IRAN IS FRAMED ENTIRELY IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN FOR ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING OF IRANIANS IN THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT, WHICH THEY PURCHASED FROM THE UNITED STATES. I MIGHT NOTE THAT IRAN HAS SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. AND I WOULD CONCLUDE, ON BACKGROUND, THAT THIS WHOLE QUESTION OF JUST WHAT IRAN IS DOING WITH THE MATERIEL AND SUPPLIES IS A MATTER RELATED TO THEIR SECURITY. YOU REALLY WOULD HAVE TO SPEAK TO THEM.

Q. I HAVE A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS HERE ABOUT U. S. COMMITMENTS AND INVOLVEMENT IN IRAN. WHAT IS THE SIZE OF THE CURRENT U. S. MISSION IN IRAN, AND ARE THERE PLANS TO INCREASE IT MATERIALLY?

A. WITH RESPECT TO THE MILITARY, I GUESS IT'S A MAAG BUT I THINK YOU CAN GET THAT FROM DEFENSE. NOW, ON THE CIVILIAN SIDE, WE CAN GET THAT FOR YOU.

Q. HAVE THERE BEEN, AS A RESULT OF THE IRANIAN ARMS REQUEST, ANY NEW POLITICAL- DIPLOMATIC ARRANGEMENTS ENTERED INTO BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN?

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE. I UNDERSTOOD IT WAS A STRAIGHT-OUT SALES ARRANGEMENT. YOU WANT TO KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY POLITICAL OR DIPLOMATIC COMMITMENTS OR ENGAGEMENTS OR UNDERTAKINGS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE SALES ARRANGEMENTS. I'LL INQUIRE.

Q. YOU SAID THAT THIS WAS IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN FOR ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING. CAN YOU PUT SOME DATE ON THOSE REQUESTS?

A. OH, OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS. THIS HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS. I'VE BEEN AWARE OF IT FOR SIX MONTHS.

Q. SO THESE WERE NEW REQUESTS DURING THE YEAR 1972?

A. I CAN'T SAY. YOU KNOW, YOU GETTING ME INTO A TECHNICAL AREA I'M JUST NOT BRIEFED ON. IF YOU WANT TO STATE UNCLASSIFIED

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YOUR QUESTIONS, WE'LL GET THE ANSWERS.

Q. COULD WE GET THE DATES, THE TIMES OF PURCHASE, THE TERMS OF PURCHASE?

Q. WHAT WAS THE MAGNITUDE, JOHN -- TWO BILLION?

A. I DON' T KNOW. THAT' S WHAT I' VE HEARD.

Q. AND, ALSO, IF YOU CAN GIVE US ANY ASSESSMENT ABOUT WHETHER THE ARMS SALES IS LINKED TO THE SECURITY OF THE PERSIAN GULF AREA AND WHETHER TO THE BUILDUP OF SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN IRAQ -- PARTICULARLY IN THE SHAT- AL- ARAB.

A- WELL, I THINK I ANSWERED THAT AS BEST AS I WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER IT, ON BACKGROUND EARLIER, WHEN I SAID THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS WERE ALL RELATED TO IRAN' S OWN PERCEPTION OF ITS SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.

Q. DOES THIS NOT INDICATE A U. S. ENDORSEMENT OF THE IRANIAN PERCEPTION -- WHATEVER THAT MAY BE?

A. I DON' T KNOW.

Q. PERHAPS THERE IS SOMETHING ON THE RECORD WHICH EXPLAINS, IN SOME CONCEPTUAL WAY, THE SCOPE OF THE U. S. INVOLVEMENT HERE. BUT, IF SO, EVIDENTLY NONE OF US ARE FAMILIAR WITH IT SO WE WOULD APPRECIATE SOME REASONABLY COMPREHENSIVE EXPLANATION OF THE SCOPE OF THE U. S. ACTIVITY HERE IN RELATION TO THE AR
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